

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An access tower comprising a base, a scissor lift means having a lower end mounted on the base, a working platform mounted at ~~the~~ an upper end of the scissor lift means and means for applying a force to the lower end of the scissor lift means to urge the scissor lift means into an extended condition.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) An access tower as claimed in claim 2 wherein the means for applying a force comprises biasing means acting on the lower end of the scissor lift means which urge the scissor lift means into ~~an~~ the extended condition.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) An access tower as claimed in claim 2 wherein the biasing means acts only on the lower end of the scissor lift means.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) An access tower as claimed in claim 3 ~~or 4~~ wherein the biasing means comprises spring means.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) An access tower as claimed in claim 4 wherein the spring means comprises a spring selected from the group consisting of a tension spring means and/or and a compression spring means.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) An access tower as claimed in claim 4 ~~or 5~~ wherein the spring means acts on a mounting which is movably mounted on the base.

Claim 7. (Original) An access tower as claimed in claim 6 wherein the mounting comprises a block which is slidably disposed with respect to the base.

Claim 8. (Original) An access tower as claimed in claim 7 wherein the block is slidably disposed in a hollow frame member forming part of the base.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) An access tower as claimed in ~~any one of claims 2 to 8~~ claim 2 wherein the biasing means applies a force which compensates for at least 75% of ~~the~~ an effort required to raise the access ~~tower~~ tower to an erected condition.

Claim 10. (Original) An access tower as claimed in claim 9 wherein the biasing means applies a force which compensates for substantially 100% of the effort required to raise the access tower to an erected condition.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) An access tower as claimed in ~~any one of the previous claims~~ claim 1 further comprising support means for providing structural support to the scissor lift means in the extended condition.

Claim 12. (Original) An access tower as claimed in claim 11 wherein the support means comprises at least one telescopically extendible leg, extendible between a stowed condition and at least one predetermined extended condition.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) An access tower as claimed in claim 12 wherein ~~the~~ at least one telescopically extendible leg has a plurality of predetermined extended configurations so as to accommodate varying heights of the working platform relative to the base.

Claim 14. (Original) An access tower as claimed in claim 12 wherein the support means comprises a pair of telescopically extendible legs.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) An access tower as claimed in ~~any one of claims 11 to 14~~ claim 11 wherein the support means is mountable on the access tower.

Claim 16. (Original) An access tower as claimed in claim 15 wherein the support means is pivotally mounted on the access tower.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) An access tower comprising a base, scissor lift means having a lower end mounted on the base and a working platform mounted at ~~the~~ an upper end of the scissor lift means, the scissor lift means comprising two spaced-apart lazy tongs assemblies and further comprising a plurality of laterally extending bars extending between the two lazy tongs assemblies.

Claim 18. (Original) An access tower as claimed in claim 17 wherein the laterally extending bars extend between load-supporting members on each of the two lazy tongs assemblies.

Claim 19. (Original) An access tower as claimed in claim 18 wherein the laterally extending bars form a pivot for each of the two lazy tongs assemblies.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) An access tower as claimed in ~~any one of claims 17 to 19 wherein~~ the claim 17 wherein the scissor lift means comprises a laterally-extending bar mounted on a linkage connected to one or both of the lazy tongs assemblies which causes the bar to rise and fall with the scissor lift means.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) An access tower as claimed in ~~claim 20~~ claim 20 wherein the linkage may comprise two parallelogram linkages located one on each of the lazy tongs assemblies.